IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the THIRD full paragraph of the specification, from page 4, line 19 to page 5, line 19 with the following replacement paragraph:

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For example, congestion information is collected by routers, and the congestion information is sent upstream to the multicast source station in fields of NAK messages, or in the fields of loss report messages. A multicast flow is ordinarily established from a source station through a multicast distribution tree of routers to a group of destination stations. The NAK message is often a unicast message transmitted by a destination station to the source station, and which follows a route "up the distribution tree" of multicast distribution. Alternatively, a NAK message may be transmitted as a multicast message. A router may receive a NAK packet in transit from an intended destination station to a source station, the NAK packet indicating loss of a data packet. The router writes a loss rate determined by the router into a "loss rate field" of a message to be sent upstream along the reverse of the distribution tree, for example another NAK packet, or for example, a loss report message. The router determines the loss rate to be written into the loss rate field of the NAK packet, etc., in response to: analyzing the loss rate on each of its links; the loss rate reported by the incoming NAK packet; and, the elapsed time from the time stamp showing when the various loss rates were determined. For example, the router writes the largest of these loss rates into the loss rate field of the loss report mes-

sage, or upstream NAK packet, etc. Alternatively, the router may write a new loss rate based on the various factors into the loss rate field of the loss report message. The router ~~than~~ then transmits the loss report message as a unicast message up the multicast distribution tree to the next higher router. Alternatively, the router may use multicast, etc., to transmit the loss report message upstream to the next higher router in the multicast distribution tree. The source station receives the loss report message after it has passed through all of the routers used by the multicast flow to reach the particular destination station. Thus, the loss rate carried in the loss rate field of the loss report message packet as it is received by the source station may give the largest loss rate determined by any of these routers, or may give another representative loss rate. Further, at higher levels of the multicast distribution tree, the loss rates are consolidated from those reported by routers on different branches and lower in the multicast distribution tree. The source station responds to the value carried in the loss rate field of the loss report message to control its transmission rate. Accordingly, the source station responds to the loss rate at the bottleneck link on the distribution tree from the source station to all of the destination stations.

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